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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,767	06/18/2001	Hyun-Jun Lee	P56408	8238

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EXAMINER

CHEN, ALAN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2182

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/881,767

Applicant(s)

LEE, HYUN-JUN

Examiner

Alan S Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 9, 12, 13, 15, 18-21, 25, 27 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 6-8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 22-24 and 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 01 October 2003 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

#### ***Drawings***

1. The drawings were received on October 1, 2003 pertaining to the replacement sheet for Fig. 1. These drawings are acceptable.

#### ***Specification***

2. The specification amended by the applicant received on October 1, 2003 is acceptable.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments, see page 13 through 15 of applicant amendment, filed 06/18/2001, with respect to claims 13, 16 and 22 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 USC §112 rejections of claims 13 through 15 have been withdrawn.
4. Applicant's arguments, see page 19 through 24 of applicant amendment, filed 06/18/2001, with respect to claims 3,4,6,7,11,16 and 17 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 USC §1103 rejections of claims 3,4,6,7,11,16 and 17 have been withdrawn.
5. Applicant's arguments, see pages 15-19, filed 10/01/2003, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1,2,5,8-10,12-15, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made with respect to No. 5,521,719 to Yamada in view Using Microsoft Outlook 2000 (hereafter Outlook).
6. The indicated allowability of claims 19-21 and 23-28 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Outlook 2000. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 19,20,21,25,27 and 28 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Outlook.

In reference to claim 19, Outlook discloses a method comprising the steps of: converting received data corresponding to each letter received from a server (Incoming POP server for example, page 177) being specified into image and character data (displayed in the message viewer window as text and image), each letter transferred by electronic mail to the server from a plurality of users (account name and username on the server is required, page 177), the server having a unique address on a network (as indicated by the address on page 177 for incoming or outgoing mail) and performing a mail service function and sorting and storing image and character data by an account of the user; continuously determining whether an authorized user requests to view letters addressed to the authorized user (when the user double clicks, the response from the continual monitoring of events of the mouse and keyboard will cause the message to be displayed for the user); displaying information extracted from the stored image and character data when the authorized user requests to view said letters addressed to the authorized user (opens up the letter to full view when the user selects the message to view); determining information selected by the authorized user from the displayed information; and reading image and character data corresponding to the selected information among the stored

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image and character data (if the user has multiple messages, user selects the message he wants to view and it opens to full view).

In reference to claim 20, Outlook discloses claim 19 further comprising the step of printing a letter corresponding to the data read in said step of reading image and character data when the authorized user requests to print a letter (page 121).

In reference to claim 21, Outlook discloses claim 19 where step of sorting and storing the image and character data by the account of user being stored in a personal computer. This is inherent with Outlook, being a software application residing on a PC.

In reference to claim 25, Outlook discloses claim 19, said steps being implemented by a program stored in memory (Outlook is a software program stored on a hard drive).

In reference to claim 27 and 28, Outlook discloses claim 19, further comprising the step of viewing the letters and printing a letter corresponding to the data read in said step of reading image and character when the authorized user request to print a letter (the preview option indicated on page 121, allows one to view what is to be printed).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1,2,3,5,9,12,13,15 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over No. 5,521,719 to Yamada in view of Outlook.

In reference to claims 1, 2 and 18, Yamada discloses an electronic letter receiver (Fig. 9, element 122 for receiving email), where letter came from a mail server (for the case of the email receiver, Fig. 9, element 122, the mail server is Fig. 10, element 138). Yamada further discloses the letter receiver being attached to a LAN (Fig. 10) wherein a personal computer (Fig. 10, element 135) is attached to the LAN as well as a printer (Fig. 10, element 135 and 140). The printer can automatically print email based on user's settings (Column 4, lines 15-28).

Yamada does not expressly disclose a letter storing unit, display unit, a user interface or a controller as specified in the limitations.

Outlook discloses an application that resides on a personal computer, causing the personal computer to be a letter storing unit accommodating sorting and storing of image and character data by the account of user (when user logs with username and password, messages addressed to him are downloaded to his PC), a display unit (the monitor of the PC) for displaying information extracted from the image and character data; a user interface unit (the Outlook graphic user interface application) outputting a display request signal when an authorized user requests to view a letter addressed to him (display request signal generated by PC upon double clicking, or single click depending on user preferences, on the message in Outlook) and outputting an account control signal (signal causes the retrieval of the message from the mail server in order to be displayed). Outlook discloses the Outlook application being a controller that outputs email messages to the monitor based on the account user and allows for printing capabilities (page 121, hence generating a print control signal). Outlook teaches that mail servers have a unique address on a network, where the unique mail address is needed (pages 175-

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178, defining where the incoming, POP3 and outgoing, SMTP servers are) to communicate with the mail server.

Yamada and Outlook are analogous art because they are from similar problem solving area in the receipt, control and processing of email, one being more on a hardware level while the other on a software level.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Yamada with Outlook to have an application resident on a personal computer that handles email.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been the need to have a software application to compliment an email hardware system, in order to control and display sending and receipt of email on a Windows operating system which is the dominant operating system for personal computers.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yamada with Outlook for the benefit of a software application resident on a personal computer for an email system.

In reference to claim 2, Yamada and Outlook discloses claim 1. Outlook further discloses that the letter storing unit (would be the hard drive of the PC) is included within a personal computer, being software resident in the PC.

In reference to claim 3, Yamada and Outlook discloses claim 1. Outlook further disclose requiring a user to login with a username and password so the application can open and output a display request signal for displaying a message on the monitor and account control signal for retrieving messages.

In reference to claim 5, Yamada and Outlook discloses claim 1. Outlook further discloses that the email application is stored on the hard drive of the computer. The email application is the system program that serves as the controller.

In reference to claim 9, Yamada and Outlook discloses claim 1. Outlook further discloses converting data corresponding to the letter under the control of the software where the data received is converted to different text fonts, sizes, and images based on fields/tags in the received data.

In reference to claim 12, Yamada and Outlook discloses claim 1. Outlook further discloses displaying information on the monitor from information extracted from the image and character data to the person who logged in the computer.

In reference to claim 13, Yamada and Outlook discloses claim 1. Outlook further discloses using the application requiring the use of keyboard and mouse that allows the user to input his username and password.

In reference to claim 15, Yamada and Outlook discloses claim 1. Yamada discloses a PC interfaced with the LAN where the software application serving as the controller physically resides or is connected to the computer, the software application also making the personal computer the letter storing unit.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

11. Claims 4,6-8,10,11,14,16,17,22,23,24 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.



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In reference to claim 24, the following is the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art disclosed by the applicant and cited by the Examiner fail to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, a step of determining whether every letter addressed to the account of the authorized user indicated by the selected information is to be printed.

***Conclusion***

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to electronic letter receiver and distributor systems and methods.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,052,442 to Copper et al.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,229,884 to Toyoda et al.


U.S. Pat. No. 6,094,277 to Toyoda

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alan S Chen whose telephone number is 703-605-0708. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A Gaffin can be reached on 703-308-3301. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

ASC  
11/13/2003

  
JEFFREY GAFFIN  
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